

DULL IN CONGRESS.

PENSION BILLS PREVAIL AT ONE END OF THE CAPITOL.

THE SOUTH AND THE CABINET.
H. CLAY EVANS, of Tennessee, for the Postmaster-General—Boyd, of North Carolina—Waddill, of Virginia—Personal and Postal Notes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5.—(Special)—This was a dull day at the Capitol. Pension bills held the right of way in the House, and the proceedings in the Senate were characteristically stupid when I visited the press gallery, about 2:30 P. M. The usual gossip as to the completion of McKinley's Cabinet was indulged in, the important feature being the question as to whether there would be a southern member of it. The prominence recently given to the candidacy of H. Clay Evans, of Tennessee, for the postmaster-general has made the supporters of other southern aspirants for Cabinet honors quite active. It is not believed that Goff will accept a place in the Cabinet, as it would be practically take him out of politics as does his position on the bench. The little millionaire judge wants to succeed Faulkner in the Senate, and it would be more agreeable all around that a more representative southerner should be chosen than one from either of the States of Maryland, West Virginia, or Kentucky. It is believed here that this is Major McKinley's view of the situation, the activity of the friends of Evans of Tennessee, E. Boyd, of North Carolina, and Judge Edmund Waddill, of Virginia. It is stated that delegations of the friends of the latter two will visit Canton at an early day to press their claims.

It was remarked to-day by a Republican who is usually well posted that if Goff goes to the Cabinet, or even if he is elected senator, Judge Paul, of the Western United States District Court of Virginia, would be appointed to the bench of the associate United States Circuit Court. This would make a vacancy in Virginia, to which Judge Waddill might easily be appointed, if General James A. Walker, or some other Republican leader from that section, did not aspire to the position. It was further hinted to-day that if Goff leaves the bench, either for the Cabinet or the Senate, Judge Waddill, who stands high with President-elect McKinley, would be appointed to the vacancy that would be created. There are a great many complications in office appointments, which will be interesting as they develop.

Gary, the Maryland candidate for the Cabinet, being out of the way, a conference was held to-day between Senator Pritchard, and Senator-elect Wellington, of Maryland, with a view to unite their support in behalf of James E. Boyd, of North Carolina, as a representative, southern R.-politan. Additional information is given this matter by the receipt of a second message from Canton in response to which Senator Pritchard sent a special envoy, in Colonel Boyd's interest, being unable himself to travel. It is also said to-night that Goff, having declined a Cabinet position, Boyd will have the support of the Republicans of West Virginia, led by Senator Elkins.

PERSONAL ITEMS.
Mrs. Maxwell, of Winchester, Va., is visiting Mrs. Marshall, of Georgetown. Miss Tenant, of Richmond, is to visit Mrs. Ayers, of this city. She is the sister of Mrs. Henry Fairfax, of Virginia.

Mr. H. A. Hall has gone to Holly Inn, Pinehurst, N. C. Ex-senator Carr, of North Carolina, is in the city and was a visitor at the Capitol to-day.

J. R. G. Pitten, of Bristol, Va., and Mrs. Bellville, of Pulaski, Va., are at the Metropolitan.

J. C. Crowell, of Concord, N. C., is at the Metropolitan.

Holmes Boyd, Jr., of Winchester, Va., and J. S. Johnson, of Richmond, are at the St. James.

C. C. Rogers, of Talton, N. C., is at the St. James.

E. G. B. Hambley, of Rochelle, N. C., and W. Ellinger, of Virginia, are at the Raleigh.

R. McCoy, J. E. Ritter, C. G. Harnsberger, W. B. Whitmore, and G. S. P. Triplett, of Virginia; G. Clowes, of Richmond, and R. L. Platford, of Stafford, Va., are at the Howard House.

G. E. Wilder and wife, of Charlotte, N. C., are at the Riggs.

Mr. W. C. Williams, of Roanoke, Va., has purchased the Arlington livery-stables, and has added twenty-five thoroughbred Virginia horses to the establishment.

POSTAL NOTES.

The site of the post-office at Oak Level, Henry county, Va., has been changed, two miles west.

George Richardson has been commissioned a fourth-class postmaster at Dyer's Store, Va.; Charles A. Shreshley, at Leeland, Va.; and Ezra B. Rodman, at Rodman, Va.

Steamboat service has been established as follows:

Virginia Norfolk, by Portsmouth. Fortress Monroe, Newport News, Kings Mills, Wharf (n. o.), Ferguson's Wharf, Homewood, Scotland, Jamestown, Claremont, Lexington, Brandon, Oldfield, Sturgespoint, Clayton, Weyanoke, Wilcox Wharf, Blairs, Westover, Shirley, Bermuda Hundred, City Point, Hardens (n. o.), Deep Bottom (n. o.), and Meadowville, to Richmond. Virginia Navigation Company; Irvin Weisgerber of Richmond, Va., general manager, to Newbern and back to the times a week; by a schedule satisfactory to the department, not to exceed 12 hours' running-time each way. From July 1, 1897, to June 30, 1898.

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THE FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Mr. Kenney Sworn In as Senator from Delaware.

WASHINGTON, February 5.—The vacancy which has existed in the Senate since the 4th of March, 1896, by reason of the failure of the Delaware legislature to elect a senator from that state, was filled to-day by the admission of Richard R. Kenney, whose credentials, in due form, were presented by Mr. Gray (Democrat), of Delaware, and were accepted "as prima facie" evidence of his right to the seat. Even Senators Chandler and Hearr recognized Mr. Kenney as the man to fill the seat, and his seat, suggesting, however, the question of whether the Delaware Legislature which had elected him was a fraudulent body, which would be hereafter presented to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Meantime, Mr. Kenney holds the seat, and the forty-five states of the Union are fully represented in the Senate by ninety senators.

The House bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Capitol was not taken up to-day. Mr. Hill statin-

that it could not be disposed of within the morning hour; but notice was given by Mr. Morrill that he would move to have it taken up to-morrow.

FACIFIC R. R. SALE.
Mr. Thurston (Republican), of Nebraska, continued his speech in opposition to the resolution of his Populist colleague (Mr. Allen), questioning the right of the Executive Department to consent to a judicial sale of the property of the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

His argument was to show that that disposition of the question was the legal and proper one. He had not finished his speech when the morning hour expired.

The Nicaragua-canal bill was taken up, and speeches in opposition to it were made by Senators Allen and Caffery.

Afterwards, some fifty pension-bills and some twenty-five other unobjected-to House bills were taken from the calendar and passed, and the Senate, at 6:35 P. M., adjourned until to-morrow.

House of Representatives.

With a few interruptions, the House applied itself to-day to the consideration of unfinished business, and while thus engaged, disposed of 61 private pension bills. Among them were bills, granting pensions of \$50, a month to the widow of General Erastus A. Tyler; to Edwin C. Spofford, of the Thirtieth Massachusetts Infantry; to Marshall Gould, of the Eighth Iowa; Mrs. Johnson, of the Twenty-second Iowa; Major-General John A. H. Stahel, and the widow of General Matthew P. Trumbull; and of P. M., adjourned until to-morrow.

Cost of salaries of Seed Purchasing Agent, five inspectors, six clerks, seed-testing experts, and all other expenses of purchasing and handling the seeds, and seed franks to date (January 26, 1897). \$1,102.61

Total expenses to finish up this part of the business will fall within \$15,000

The total weight of the seed purchased is over 1,200,000 pounds. As put up for distribution, it would require seventy-five mail-cars to contain it. The cost to the Post-Office Department of handing this amount of seed is estimated at \$80,000.

The vegetable and field seeds (omitting the flower seeds from consideration) would plant 227,346 acres, or, 355 square miles. Among the larger items are: Tomato seed, sufficient to plant 48,526 acres; cabbage seed, to plant 42,322 acres; turnip seed, to plant 49,712 acres, and sweet corn, to plant 13,222 acres.

Cost of seed distribution for fiscal year, ending June 30, 1896-'97. Until to-day, the seed purchased by the department for the congressional distribution were bought in small quantities at the departmental stores, and packed in paper packets and labelled and prepared for distribution. Under the plan now in vogue, the seed is purchased from contractors in different parts of the country, already put up in packages and labelled, ready for mailing. This plan was used first in 1886 and continued in 1897.

The following table shows in separate columns the net cost of seeds, the cost of salaries of seed packers, paper bags, printing, labels, etc., and the total appropriations for the fiscal years 1891 to 1894, inclusive, when this plan was in full operation:

	Total Appropriation	Cost of Seed	Salaries and Other Expenses	Total
Year	Year end	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1891.....	\$1,022,300.00	\$40,881.32	\$80,000.00	100.00
1892.....	1,024,200.00	48,025.67	60,801.00	100.00
1893.....	1,024,200.00	60,701.03	64,025.00	100.00
1894.....	1,024,200.00	70,071.58	70,071.58	100.00
	Per cent.			
	Average			
	Year			
	1890/95/96/97	\$0.00/0.00/0.00/0.00	\$0.00/0.00/0.00/0.00	\$0.00/0.00/0.00/0.00

It will be seen that for the four fiscal years included in the table, an average of 9 per cent. of the total appropriation was expended for seeds, and 58 per cent.

In 1891, \$127,108.97 secured 9,555,318 packets of vegetable and flower seed at a cost per packet of \$0.0009, and in addition thereto, besides 22,225 packets (quarts) of field seeds at an average cost per packet of \$0.0429, which were never purchased in such quantity before.

The table above shows that for the current year 90 per cent. of the appropriation was expended for seeds, mostly packed, and less than 10 per cent. for salaries and all other expenses of distribution.

COMPARISONS OF RESULTS.

Comparing the distribution for 1894 under the old plan with that for the present year under the new plan, it is seen that the results are very similar.

In 1894, \$145,669 secured 20,655,529 packets of vegetable and flower seed at a cost per packet of \$0.0009, and in addition thereto, besides 22,225 packets (quarts) of field seeds at an average cost per packet of \$0.0429, which were never purchased in such quantity before.

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The new plan secures twice as much seed for the money expended.

Other advantages of the new plan are:

Promised early delivery of the seed to the people.

The distribution of the business among a number of seed dealers in different parts of the country, who compete with each other as to excellence of seed, amount supplied, and price.

And the thorough scientific testing of all the seed before distribution, which was never done before.

The only further improvement that can be commended with sincerity is the total abolition of the promiscuous and gratuitous distribution of seed by governmental agencies.

THAT STAMP "ROBBERY."

IT APPEARS THAT THE INSPECTORS MADE A MISTAKE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5.—There are no new developments at the Post-Office Department this morning concerning the alleged "periodical stamp robbery." The Chief Post-Office Inspector is still investigating the matter. The probabilities are that the affair will be allowed to die slowly. It is apparent that the post-office inspectors who made the mistake in this case will be blamed. It is stated that the proofs of stamp, as they are said to be, found in Colman's possession, are fifteen years out of date, and are legitimate articles of traffic among stamp-dealers and collectors; also, that Colman understood this, and his refusal to go into a detailed explanation of his possession of such a quantity of the proofs as was found upon him, was simply a matter of business.

The sales of wool have been smaller than in other recent weeks, and yet are far in excess of the consumption of all mills for a week, if all were fully employed. At the three chief markets, the average price of a pound of wool is 40 cents, without further news.

The market for mohair is also very quiet, and the demand is not large enough nor of sufficient number to cause any apprehension.

A Lad's Painful Accident.

Yesterday morning a little boy of Mr. Thomas J. Cousins, great-aunt of Mr. 9 west Cary, while playing, fell from a chair, and was severely injured.

The couple left immediately for New York, where they will spend their honeymoon. They will reside in Newport News, where Mr. Talbot is a native, and a naval officer.

Mrs. Talbot is a daughter of Mrs. B. W. Cosby.

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A Word to Dispatch Subscribers.

We would earnestly call the attention of our subscribers to the offer, which the Dispatch is still holding out to them, in that artistic souvenir, "The Lost Cause." Don't fail to have it in your households. It will grow in interest as time goes on, and will instruct your children.

Cut out three coupons of different dates and bring them with 10 cents to our counter, or send them with 10 cents and 3-cent postage stamp, if you wish them mailed to any address. In the latter event,

COUPON DEPARTMENT,
The Dispatch Company,
Richmond, Va.

FAMOUS BASE-BALL PITCHER DEAD.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., February 5.—Charles Radburn, who for many years was the pitcher for the Providence and Boston teams of the National League, died here at 1 P. M. His death was caused by paralysis.

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